

## **Meeting of Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention**

July 24, 2017 • 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Maryland Department of the Environment

1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland

### **Commission Members Present:**

Michael Ito, Psy. D.	Department of Juvenile Services
Barry Page	Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Admin.
Albert Zachik, M.D.	Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Admin.
Robert Tousey, J.D.	Chair & Faith-based Community
Dana Stacey Hendrickson	Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Jennilyn Babcock Landleck	Family Member
Stephen Goldberg, M.D.	Public Health Services
Linnete Rivera	Department of Disabilities
Gregory Branch, M.D. MBA CPE	Local Health Officer (Baltimore County)
Deborah Nelson	Maryland State Department of Education

### **Commission Members On Phone:**

Amanda Celentano	Maryland Department of Aging
William Powell	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide

### **Maryland Department of Health & Behavioral Health Administration Staff:**

Kathy Rebbert-Franklin	Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Admin.
Kimberly Hiner	Maryland Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (Commission Staff)

### **Public Attendees:**

Susan Ruiz	Love our Vets
Susan Green	National Capital Lyme

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Chairman Robert Tousey welcomed members and guests to the Commission meeting. Commission member introductions followed. Brief discussion of location and structure of upcoming commission meetings.

### **Approval of May 22, 2017 Minutes:**

There were no additions or corrections. Motion to accept minutes as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Maryland Department of Health Staffing Update:**

Chairman Tousey introduced Kimberly Hiner and the new staff person for the Commission and Brittany Day as an Intern who will be assisting with note taking, both with the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

**Annual Maryland Suicide Prevention Conference Update:**

October 4, 2017 at Martin West, 6817 Dogwood Rd, Baltimore, MD 21244. Chairman Tousey asked for Commissioners to encourage other partners to attend.

**Suggested Recommendations to the Governor on Modification of Executive Order - Discussion:**

Chairman Tousey – Proposed suggested changes to Commission executive order:

**Change the commission from a gubernatorial appointment to a secretary of health appointment citing the time concerns for the appointments from the Governor's office**

Commissioner Goldberg – Questioned whether the recommendations had already been made or if it was up for discussion. Highlights the importance of having a gubernatorial commission.

Chairman Tousey – Suggests that the Commission could be hybrid, with appointments such as staff designees by the Secretaries, and others by the Governor.

**Additional Commissioner Appointments**

Chairman Tousey - Suggests expanding civilian appointments on the commission including, a member from the LGBTQ community; student representation including a college or high school students; a person recovering from substance abuse; and a public service component representing police officers and fire fighters.

**Staggering Appointments**

Chairman Tousey - So that all Commissioner terms do not expire at the same time, change the time of term from three years to four years. New executive order be effective July 1, 2018 when the current commissioners' terms expire.

**Creation of Taskforces:**

Chairman Tousey - Based on the Executive Order, the Commission Chair has the power to form taskforces and committees.

Commissioner Ito – Supports the formation of taskforces because it is difficult for a large commission to achieve deliverables alone. Taskforces would allow for more targeted work to get done. It is key that the taskforces meet the stakeholder needs.

Commissioner Goldberg – Important for each Taskforce to have a clear purpose, overarching goals, and the freedom to complete activities, while the Commission still has oversight of their work.

### **Recommended Task Forces**

#### **Substance Abuse**

#### **LGBTQ**

#### **Older Adults**

#### **Faith-Based**

#### **Law Enforcement, Fire, and Justice Taskforce**

Chairman Tousey - Mark Bailey, retired state trooper to be the Commission liaison to law enforcement and authorizes him to begin recruiting for the law enforcement task force.

Commissioner Ito – Recommend revision on corrections and change the word to justice because it is more representative of that community.

#### **Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Taskforce**

Commissioner Hendrickson – Has a group of contacts established for Suicide Prevention Month and could be helpful for the Veterans taskforce. Expand the title of the Veterans taskforce Service-members, Veterans, and their Families.

#### **Children and Youth Taskforce**

Commissioner Nelson – Suggests a children and youth taskforce. Department of Education has a youth subcommittee and is interested in suicide prevention.

Commissioner Ito – The youth taskforce could also have juvenile correctional services. Many of the taskforces will have overlap, e.g. LGBTQ and juvenile correctional services.

Commissioner Landbeck – Outreach is needed for families after the suicide and will volunteer for this Taskforce.

Chairman Tousey – it is important because often family members will take their own lives after they have lost a family member.

## **Data Taskforce**

Commissioner Branch - Data tends to be slow to get with a lag in time. To better inform activities, timely data is important.

### **Suggestions for data sources:**

Department of Education, school attendance rates

Funeral directors / administrators could be two data sources that would have a pulse on the current trends. A typical question asked by funeral directors are if the person has served in the military.

The Department of Health can provide suicide rates in a timely manner. Reports on violent death data are published

The Medical Examiner's office would be important because it is a reliable source.

Halfway houses

Opioid task force

Al Redmer, Insurance Commissioner, possibly reports on attempted suicides/suicides daily to Cabinet Members

Even early qualitative data can be important to begin telling the story of these individuals.

The Executive Order states that agencies shall cooperate with the commission so we can ask these questions of our colleagues. The Commission should get the support of the Agency leads first.

Commissioner Ito – Secretary Abbott has a concern for juvenile suicide. Data is collected on youth.

There is crossover in the data that we would like. The Commission needs to be clear about what data questions we want to ask and what we want to answer with the data.

**Action Item:** Send specific data questions to Bob and Kim. Once questions are identified, they will be compiled and shared with the Commission.

## **Community Outreach and Social Media Taskforce**

### **Overview of Social Media Discussion with Maryland Department of Health Communications**

Kim Hiner (Commission Staff) – Commissioner Page, Chairman Tousey and her had a call with Department of Health Director of Communications about the existing Suicide Prevention / Maryland Crisis Hotline. The accounts will be taken down / made inactive due to lack of monitoring. The Department of Health is happy to disseminate messages and outreach on behalf of the Commission.

Chairman Tousey - If any Commissioners creates a Commissioner's account make sure it only has Commission business and not to post personal or non-commission related business. Make sure that the Crisis Hotline number is prominently displayed at the top of the page. Will have a conversation with Grassroots. The "There is Hope" app is a great tool. Howard County Assistant State's Attorneys are downloading it on their phone for when their witnesses are in crisis. The Commission did a great job funding the app and now we have to get the word out.

Commissioner Branch – Raised concerns that people might not reach out to the government on these accounts in times of crises.

Commissioner Ito – The role of the social media should be getting people informed of updates. Any crisis should be referred to the Maryland Crisis Hotline.

Commissioner Goldberg – The Commission is not in the business of responding to a crisis but people need the information of somewhere to go that is monitored 24/7, such as directly to a hotline.

**Action Item:** Any additional ideas regarding Taskforces, please e-mail the Chairman and Staff.

### **Commission Organizational Structure**

Chair Tousey – A Commissioner will be responsible for a taskforce and can engage the commission as a whole, if there are any questions. Taskforces will be volunteers, engaged in the community, that can help disseminate the information and work of the Commission.

Susan Green (Public attendee from National Capital Lyme) – Suicide is the leading cause of death for Lyme disease. High levels of misdiagnosis leads to many suicides.

Chair Tousey – As the commission expands we will find fields that we have never even thought of, and perhaps get funding and grants for, would love for Susan to present at the next commission meeting and get more public presentations.

Chair Tousey – Once identified, would like to let the Cabinet members know of the Commission's efforts and requests.

Commissioner Goldberg – Volunteers for the presentations for such an effort, if we can get to the Cabinet members and present, then when we get to the individuals in the agency then we can say the Secretary supports this endeavor.

Chair Tousey – As we send out information, we would like to engage a wide audience including previous Commissioners and others.

Commissioner Hendrickson – Offered the 2017 Media Directory

Commissioner Zachik – Contact Kim Bernardi for the old mailing lists

**Action Item:** Share any outreach lists with Kim for use in promoting upcoming meetings and Commission information.

### **September Commission Meeting Planning:**

Chairman Tousey – September 25, 2017 Meeting will take place from 1 PM – 3 PM at the Church at Covenant Park, 4550 Centennial Ln, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

- Presentation by Grassroots
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

### **Other Possible Meeting Location Suggestions:**

Governor's Coordinating Office – A lot of parking and office space

Department of Transportation in Hanover

### **Open Discussion:**

Commissioner Nelson – What is the status of the deliverables in the report that the Commission generated a year ago?

Kim Hiner (Staff) – The report that was submitted was a bit off schedule and Chair Tousey is considering submitting an Interim report to get the Commission back on schedule.

Chair Tousey – We will look at the previous meeting notes and determine how to best address the report and the deliverables.

**Action Item:** Commissioners were asked to review the report and advise Chairman Tousey or Kim if they have achieved any of the listed deliverables.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.